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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05147 190335Z

71
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 DLOS-06 EB-11 FAA-00

COME-00 INT-08 COA-02 SCI-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /163 W
---------- 114587
R 190255Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1367
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5147

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS, CH, LOS

REF: A) TOKYO 2849 B) TOKYO 3147

SUMMARY: FONOFF BELIEVES PROSPECTS ARE DIM FOR RATI-
FICATION OF GOJ-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY DURING
CURRENT DIET. SEVERAL LDP DIET MEMBERS (AND SOME
FONOFF OFFICIALS AS WELL) CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE
DEVIATION FROM MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE, FOR GIVING TOO
MUCH TO ROK AND COMPROMISING GOJ POSITION IN FUTURE.
FONOFF HAS SOME APPREHENSION THAT IN ABSENCE OF GOJ
RATIFICATION ROKG MAY PERMIT UNILATERAL ACTION. END SUMMARY

1. FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DIV HEAD SEO INFORMED EMBOFF
THAT PROSPECTS ARE DIM FOR RATIFICATION OF GOJ-ROK
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05147 190335Z

CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY DURING CURRENT SESSION OF DIET,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

EVEN IF IT IS EXTENDED UNTIL LATE MAY. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES OPPOSE TREATY , BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY FONOFF HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OVERCOME RESERVATONS OF MANY LDP MEMBERS WHO THINK GOJ GAVE TOO MUCH TO ROKG. SPECIFIC OBJECTION RELATES TO COMPROMISE WHEREBY GOJ AGREED TO DEVIATE FROM MEDIAN LINE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE ROK INSISTENCE THAT KOREA HAS PRIMARY RIGHT TO CONTINENTAL SHELF EXTENDING SOUTH OF PENINSULA.

2. WE UNDERSTAND SIMILAR RESERVATIONS EXIST IN SOME QUARTERS OF FONOFF. HEAD OF LOS TASK FORCE, AMB SUGIHARA TOLD CHARGE IN EARLY MARCH THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD OPPOSED AGREEMENT AS NEGOTITATED WITH ROK AS IT COULD PREJUDICE GOJ POSITION AT LOS CONFERENCE IN FAVOR OF USING MEDIAN LINE TO RESOLVE DISPUTES, AS WELL AS ANY FUTURE NEGOTIAT-TIONS WITH PRC IN WHICH ADHERENCE TO MEDIAN LINE WOULD BE MOST PROTECTIVE OF JAPANESE INTERESTS.

3. SEO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER ACTIONS ROKG MIGHT TAKE IF GOJ FAILS TO RATIFY TREATY WITHIN CURRENT DIET SESSION. ALTHOUGH ROKG HAS SAID IT WOULD NOT TAKE ANY UNILATERAL ACTION, SOME RUMORS TO CONTRARY HAVE EMANATED FROM SEOUL, FURTHER AGGRAVATING JAPANESE OPPONENTS OF TREATY. SEO EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT IF GOJ CANNOT ACHIEVE RATIFICATION AND ROKG PERMITS UNILATERAL ACTION ISSUE COULD BE EVEN MORE DETRIMENTAL TO JAPANESE-KOREAN RELATIONS THAN KIM CASE. IN THIS CONNECTIO, SEO WONDERED ABOUT ATTITUDE OF US OIL COMPANIES WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN SEARCH FOR OIL.

4. COMMENT: QUITE APART FROM SUBSTANTIVE CRITICISM WHICH TREATY HAS AROUSED, IT HAS ALSO RUN AFOUL OF HEAVY LEGISTLATIVE BACKLOG AND FACT THAT PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO MORE POLITICALLY PRESSING ISSUES SUCH AS CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMEN WITH PRC AND DOMESTIC LEGISTLATION WHICH IMPACTS ON UPCOMING UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS. IN SHORT, RATIFICATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE DELAYED UNTIL FALL. SHOESMITH

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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